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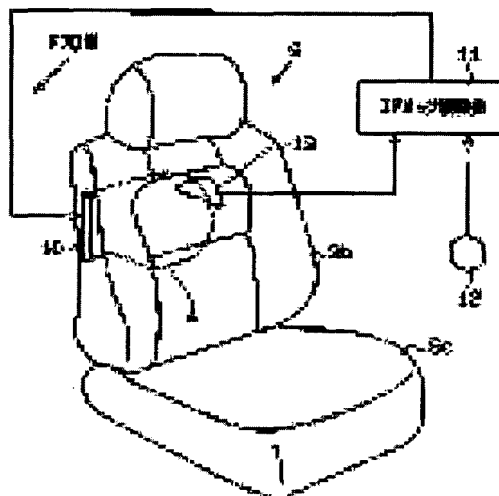
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(54) SIDE AIR BAG DEVICE

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a side air bag device capable of appropriately controlling the operation mode of the side air bag device in accordance with the presence or non-presence of an occupant or his seating condition.

SOLUTION: This side air bag is housed as a module 10 at the side of a door D in the side part of a seat S together with an inflator in which high pressure gas is sealed, and it is expanded in a place between an occupant sitting in the seat S and the door D based on a command signal of an air bag control device 11. An occupant sensor 13 is provided for a position off-set to the vehicle center side from the center of the seat back Sb of the aforesaid seat S in the upper part of the seat back Sb of the seat S. It is detected by the occupant sensor 13 whether or not an occupant is present in the seat with the exception that an occupant smaller than a specified occupant physique leans against the side part of a vehicle. The air bag control device 11 permits the side air bag to be operable when an occupant is found to have been in the seat, but prohibits the operation of the air bag when an occupant is found to have not been in the seat.



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